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unable to come. The new judge accepted and then two days later, we had a quick change of date decided by the cluster of which we are part with no advance warning. At the next membership meeting, again by conference call, we voted to cancel our 2020 specialty and move on to 2021, for all the many reasons other clubs cancelled their events.

Members looked for ways to deal with working at home with technology new to them. A steep learning curve presented many stresses. One member had one of her fourth-graders tutoring her on how to use Zoom when so many of our schools went to distance learning. Our faithful Pembrokes were there to help us remember to take a break, take a walk, eat, and reflect.

With all dog events canceled, travel greatly restricted, and all training classes put on hold indefinitely, new ways to pursue our dog hobbies had to be found. Those members who had litters born after the shelter in place orders were issued had to deal with new policies of their veterinarians as well as new ways to socialize puppies. Others just postponed breeding plans. Some members took their first ever online dog training classes, either as an introduction to a new sport or to continue training in a familiar one. With AKC's virtual Rally and Trick Dog programs available, there have been many people introduced to those sports as well as to what a quick learner a Pembroke can be, especially if there is food involved in the teaching!

Social media became a way to stay in touch with friends whom you would have seen at the many cancelled specialties. New Facebook pages arose. One in particular that Pembroke fanciers need to check into is Pembroke Corgi History, administered by Simon Parsons. It has been an in-depth discussion of the early history of the breed, complete with photos and pedigrees of dogs from as far back as the 1920s. Artwork has been shared and even some very old AKC GAZETTE columns! If you are a history buff of any breed, this group is a definite must.

With training facilities slowly reopening, COVID-19 practices need to be followed. Dogs don't seem to be bothered by masks as much as some of their owners have been. My Pembrokes are so happy to be back at classes and have picked up where they left off. With only a smattering of events scheduled for the next several months, there is plenty of time to refine skills and add some new ones before returning to normal.

Note: The Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America 2020 national specialty and all associated events scheduled for the end of September in Virginia have been cancelled. We will meet again the first week in October of 2021 at the same sites for conformation, obedience, and rally. Check out *http://www.pwccanational.com* for the most up-to-date information.

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Pulik

MAKE A SPLASH WITH DOCK DIVING

Dock diving (also known as dock jumping) is an increasingly popular sport during this time of COVID-19, with people looking for activities that not only will wear their dogs out both physically and mentally, but also give owners and their dogs opportunities to work and play as a team. A pool (about four feet deep) connects to a 35- to 40-foot platform that acts as the dock, giving the dogs a good running start toward the water. Normally, the dog's handler stands on the dock and throws a toy or "bumper" into the water for the dog to retrieve after jumping.

Dock diving made its first appearance in a competitive setting at the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge in the late 1990s. The AKC began recognizing titles of the North America Diving Dogs organization in June 2014. Dock diving competitions initially focused on distance scores (Distance Jump). Nowadays, dogs also may compete to see who can jump the highest to grab a bumper suspended in mid-air (Air Retrieve) or race to catch a bumper, swim to the end of the pool and back the fastest (Hydro Dash). In Distance Jump, there are two classes: Open Class (any size dog welcome), and the Lap Class (for dogs measuring under 16 inches at the shoulder). A division title is earned by accumulating five qualifying jumps within one division. There are five divisions, ranging from Novice to Elite. After earning the initial division title, dogs can earn Advanced and Excellent level titles by completing additional qualifying jumps.

Although there are Pulik in the U.S. practicing dock diving, as of July 2020 no Pulik had earned an AKC dock diving title. In Australia, however, there are Pulik owned by Ms. Lou Stephen who have competed in dock diving. Cool Beanz and Blizzard (5 and 10 years of age) competed at the Dog Lovers Show in Sydney in 2019. Lou was looking forward to continuing to practice during 2020, but COVID-19 has put events on hold in Australia.

Lou told me that Blizzard, who has been a water lover from Day 1, and Cool Beanz, who just follows everything his "twin" does (and usually does it better), were entered in their first dock diving competition without ever before having jumped off a dock. There is of course a big difference between the height of

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COURTESY JULIE SCHUH/LOU STEPHEN/WEST SYDNEY DOG LOVERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Cool Beanz taking a plunge; Cooper on the ramp; Ella in her vest. (For Pulik with a full corded coat, to ensure safety it is very important that the dog wear a life vest (which also can be used during competition and not just during training).

jumping off a dock to the water, compared to that of a regular swimming pool! Blizzard" being a bit water- and tennis ball-obsessed, readily took the plunge, but Cool Beanz needed much encouragement. Since the two Pulik were lucky enough to practice dock diving before the actual event, Blizzard was able to encourage his pal Cool Beanz to follow his lead. A lot of fun was had by both Pulik, and Lou and her Pulik hope to get back to competing in dock diving during 2021.

Almost any dog can do dock diving, as long as he or she loves water, knows how to swim, and has a natural passion for retrieving. Dogs train at dock diving facilities and also do a variety of conditioning activities at home that can include backyard drills and fetch. Since retrieving in water is not inherent to the Puli as a breed, the steps must be taught incrementally: (1) first stepping off something into the water (it takes a great deal of prey drive or courage to step into the unknown); (2) jumping into the water; (3) bringing back what is thrown; and, finally, (4) jumping in after something thrown and bringing it back.

Doing dock diving in cords—while making for an impressive visual display, with the cords wildly flying—will have challenges that the dog's owner will need to consider. The cords are somewhat water resistant, and many of us have seen photographs or video of the cords fanned out over the water's surface. However, once those cords (of any length) are soaked, they are able to hold an incredibly large amount of water, thereby adding additional weight and drag on the dog, which would make additional jumps, as well as swimming, more difficult. And then drying time will also need to be taken into consideration, since a simple shake and rub with a towel will not dry the cords. I fully expected that any Pulik training or competing in dock diving would have a short, clipped coat, but I was surprised to see photos of dogs with a few years of cord growth participating in the activity. In the case of Blizzard and Cool Beanz, who do flyball as well, they have their coats clipped, with cords only left on the tail and their heads.

If you have a Puli, you will also take into consideration whether the dog wants to swim or not. Much like people, it seems that there are some individuals who are suspicious (and even sometimes scared) of getting into a pool; some overcome their trepidation, while others do not. Dr. Julie Schuh, who lives in Wisconsin and has been training her Puli Ella for dock diving, noted that for Pulik with a full corded coat, it is very important that they use a life vest (which also can be used during competition and not just during training) to ensure that the Puli is safe in the water.

For more information on the sport of dock diving, see *https://www.akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/dock-diving/*, and on how to get involved in this sport, check out *https://outdoordogfun.com/how-to-get-started-in-dock-diving/*. Specifics about the NADD/AKC titling program and the AKC title application form can be found in the AKC Title Recognition Program section of the AKC website. To locate dock diving events, check out *https://northamericadivingdogs.com/Event/eventList*.

Thanks to Lou Stephen and Julie Schuh for sharing their Puli dock diving experiences and photos with us.

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Puli Club of America

Spanish Water Dogs

EARLY ONSET PRA IN SPANISH WATER DOGS

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) refers to a group of inherited conditions that lead to blindness in many dog breeds. Over time, the dog's vision is impacted by progressive, bilateral loss of light-responding cells (photoreceptors) leading to thinning of the retina, changes to the blood supply to the retina, and ultimately complete loss of vision. Blindness from PRA due to progressive rod-cone degeneration (PRCD-PRA) has been known for some time to occur in Spanish Water Dogs with vision changes noted from about 4 years of age. Fortunately, a genetic test based on DNA analysis to determine carriers and affected dogs as well as those who are genetically clear has been available to breeders for over 10 years.

A few years ago, a family group of SWDs was found to have developed a new form of PRA that resulted in vision problems at a much earlier age (as early as 1.5 years of age) than had previously been seen in the breed. This was despite DNA testing being done on the parents to ensure that PRCD-PRA would not occur in any of the puppies produced. Owners of Sophie, the first dog diagnosed with this condition, worked with the Health and Wellness Committee of the Spanish Water Dog Club of America (SWDCA) to access information and seek researchers who might identify the underlying cause of their dog's blindness.

The Comparative Ophthalmology Lab at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine was contacted in 2018 regarding Sophie's condition (PRA). Through partnership with the SWDCA and its members and funding from the Myers-Dunlap Endowment for Canine Health, research was undertaken at Michigan State University to find a genetic mutation that